

REMARKS:

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for taking the time to conduct a telephone interview.

The Examiner rejected Claims 1, 2, 12, and 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Downey in view of Koppenberg. The Examiner also rejected Claims 3, 14 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Downey in view of Koppenberg and further in view of Darby. The Examiner also rejected Claims 7 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Downey in view of Koppenberg and further in view of Nelson et al. The Examiner also rejected Claims 4 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Downey in view of Koppenberg and further in view of Pangburn et al.

The Examiner indicated that Claims 5, 6, 16, and 17 would be allowable if re-written in independent form.

In response the Applicant has further amended independent Claim 1 to specify that the first set of tamper proof hardware comprises a plurality of inner security screws that each requires a first tool for removal, and the second set of tamper proof hardware comprises a plurality of outer security screws that each require a different second tool for removal.

The Applicant recognizes that the phrase “tamper proof hardware” could be interpreted over-broadly, and so proposes the amendments above specifying that the tamper proof hardware comprises inner and outer security screws. Such security screws and the advantages provided by them are described at [0027] of the present application:

“.....Thus even if a vandal brings a tool that is suitable for removing the normally visible outside security screws 33, he will not be able to see the inside security screws 22 to determine what tool is needed to remove them until after he has removed the outside door 30.”

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The Applicant respectfully submits that persons skilled in the present art, to whom this application is addressed, will readily recognize that the fasteners disclosed in Downey and Koppenberg are not “security screws” as they would be known in the fastener field.

In support of this position, the Applicant submits herewith a declaration of the inventor stating that the term “security screw” as understood by a person such as himself who is concerned with, and knowledgeable about, and skilled in the art of designing and manufacturing structures for storing cremains, refers to screws with heads that cannot be engaged by conventional tools for installing or removing.

Applicant has made an earnest effort to be fully responsive to the Examiner’s objections and believes that Claims 1-7 and 12-19, as amended herein, are in condition for allowance. The Applicant solicits the allowance of Claims 1-7 and 12-19.

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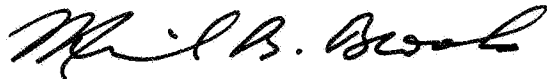
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While no additional fees are anticipated, should there be any additional fees for this application authorization is hereby given to charge any additional fees or credit any overcharges pertaining to the prosecution of this matter to Deposit Account No. 02-3979.

If, however, the Examiner should for any reason consider this application not to be in condition for allowance he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned attorney at the number listed below prior to issuing a further Action.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Blaine Brooks, PC



By: _____

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